

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - The Minus Side Of Contract Farming

Contract farming on any large scale is a relatively new facet of American Agriculture. Contracts for broilers a few years ago were looked upon by many as the best thing to hit the poultry industry in many years.

Vertical integration in farming has taken many paths of late. It has come in for a great deal of controversy and criticism. Some of the criticism we feel is justified.

A report on chick placements in the Delmarva broiler raising area indicates there won't be any relief from the overproduction plaguing that industry for at least another ten weeks. Contracts in that area are so numerous and common that there have been charges of attempts by national feed companies to price the independent grower out of the broiler business.

A recent university survey in one of the hog-belt states showed an amazing 40 per cent of the feeder hogs under contract throughout the state.

Recently the Agricultural Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives began hearings as a result of the House Small Business Committee investigations into alleged monopolies in the food business.

At the same time, the Commerce Committee of the house began hearings on almost the same subject.

The commerce committee considered legislation which would make it illegal to sell food products at a loss in one area of the country while selling the same item at a profit in other areas.

The agriculture committee considered bills that would make it illegal for retail food chain stores to engage in meat packing on one hand, and on the other hand making it possible for the big meat packers to engage in retailing

operations.

Small Business Committee members predicted not only farmers but small town dairies, retailers, and etc. are in danger of being wiped out by the pricing practices of large national companies. They expressed fears that retail food chains are spreading out with respect to meat into the feedlot and other operations and that these chains may eventually go all the way from the calf to retail beef sales.

The bills before the commerce committee would refer to all businesses, but it was made clear that food chains, national dairies, national bakeries and other food processors and sellers were the main targets.

Unless Farmers themselves take the situation in hand — unless farmers themselves realize what easy money and corporation financing do to the farming economy — unless farmers themselves face up to the fact that concentration of the production decisions in the hands of a few companies is making hired hands out of the farm owners, the government will step in with more regulations.

The following editorial which appeared recently in a farm paper in another state shows what can happen to an agricultural commodity when the producers of the commodity do not take steps to safeguard their interests. Fortunately Keystone State producers are protected from such practices.

The pendulum swings, but sometimes it has to swing so far that the farmer is put in jeopardy before he gets around to doing anything about the swing. It is time we all looked this vertical integration thing over pretty carefully.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

## Federal Milk Marketing Orders

Milk pricing practices in retail stores has been under criticism and surveillance across the country for several years. These includes installation or refrigerated units by large dairies in return for exclusive distribution or, at least, top priority; rebates to the grocer on quantity purchases; prices at a loss to the dairy and so low the store, whether independent or chain, cannot turn down the offer.

Wisconsin, the nation's leading dairy state has had its share of these abuses. The attorney general's office now has cases pending against several larger nationwide dairy chains. But Wisconsin, to the best of our knowledge, has not had its main product bantered about grocery advertisements as has happened in other states. In fact, in a search through the four grocery editions of two state papers, we found milk advertised but twice—both times at prevailing prices.

The situation is not the same in other states. And if it continues, dairy farmers might be the ones to ultimately suffer. In Indianapolis recently, a chain store advertised milk at 99c for three half-gallons, or 16 5c per quart. That same brand of milk was offered a week later by another store, this time

free with a \$10 purchase.

Another time the same brand of milk was offered at 49c a gallon with a \$5 purchase, this at a third store. That is slightly more than 12c per quart. This milk was all from one of the top three dairy firms in the country.

As a result of this advertising, Indianapolis independent dairies responded with similar prices, prices they actually could not afford. They were giving it away and it appeared as if they were forced to do so by the large dairy.

Wisconsin dairy farmers are comparatively well protected with a balance between independent dairies and co-operatives. In addition, the Federal Dairy Cooperative, a 23-cooperative organization that bargains with Chicago milk handlers, has an effective voice in pricing policies.

Such evidently is not the case in Indiana and other states. If farmers are protected by federal milk orders and the dairies must pay the price set by the order, it seems only fair to that dairy, especially the small cooperative and independent dairy should be protected from predatory practices of large, more integrated operations.

—Wisconsin Farmer, Friend

## Brubaker

(From page 1)

Virginia State University. The first award made by the Lancaster meat packing firm last year went to James Huber, Lancaster R7.

Brubaker, a graduate in vocational agriculture at the Warwick Union High School, is enrolled at the University and will begin classes Sept 24. He will pursue an Agriculture Economics curriculum with a minor study in Political Science.

During his high school term, Brubaker served as a chapter officer for two years and as Junior chapter advisor for two years.

He won the Keys'one Farmer Degree in the state Future Farmers Association in January and was named Star Farmer of the 12-county re-

gion

An active member of livestock and dairy judging teams, Brubaker won a silver medal in state competition in 1960.

He has been active in 4-H club activities and served as president of his community club as well as the county Ayrshire-Jersey club.

Since his junior year in high school, Brubaker has farmed a 72 acre farm which he rented. He owns 12 purebred Ayrshires, six purebred Yorkshire sows, a Tennessee Walking horse and fattening pigs and capons.

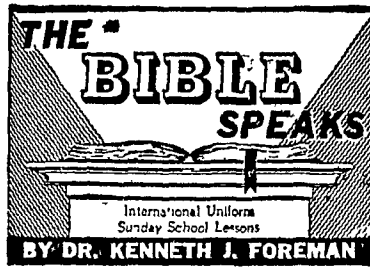
He was selected for the award by the county teachers of vocational agriculture on the basis of general agricultural excellence.

Brubaker is married to the former Virginia Landis, Lititz R3. Mrs. Brubaker plans

to accompany her husband to State College where she enrolled for part-time classes.

## Lancaster Farming

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Bible Material: Acts 18 1-3, 18 21, 24-28, Romans 16 3-5a.  
Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 4 7-18

## Teachers at Home

Lesson for September 10, 1961

ONE TEST of a successful marriage would come in this question: Do you ever think of one of them without thinking of the other at the same time? Do you often speak of one without referring to the other? We have in the Bible a notable example of a couple neither of whom is ever mentioned alone, but both always together: Aquila and Priscilla. If you had inquired around in places where they lived,

Dr. Foreman you would have heard different things about them. In Rome they would have told you: "Oh, I don't know them. Jews I think they were, and we never mix with Jews. In fact the Emperor ran them all out, and a good thing too." If you had asked in Corinth, you would have been told: "Oh yes, you mean the tent-makers. They have plenty of business, they work all the time. But I don't remember ever seeing them out and around." If you had asked their neighbors a few years later, they might have said, "That must be the couple that have those big parties once a week. Mighty quiet parties though, I guess it's some new religious sect."

## With things and people

So you might say that Aquila and Priscilla didn't make a very strong impression on their world, the Roman Empire. But there was more to that couple than some of their neighbors guessed. For one thing, they were host and hostess to the Apostle Paul. This (we may surmise) was before they became Christians, for at that point they are called simply "Jews," and Paul went to stay with them partly because he also was a Jew, partly to set up shop with them, for all three were tent-makers, no

easy trade. We know that Paul left the city of Corinth, Priscilla and Aquila went with him which makes us think that probably Paul had converted them while living in their home. At a rate, the next thing we hear of them is as workers of a different kind, not with cloth and leather but with people. These tent-makers invited to their home one of the most famous and popular preachers of his time, a man named Apollos. They did not invite him to their home just to be sociable. They took him so as to teach him—not tent-making, the Christian faith, the "way of God" as St. Luke puts it.

We hear just a little more about these two people. Paul mentions the "church in their house." This means they must have made money with their trade, otherwise no house. But it also suggests that they were the responsible leaders of a Christian group that Paul calls a church, not meaning that there were no other churches in the city. We wish we knew more about that. We wish also that we had the whole story of which Paul gives a tantalizing hint when he says that these friends (mentioning the lady first) risked their necks to save his life.

## Teachers above all

Why are people remembered? Sometimes, like Aquila and Priscilla, for something they do "the side," something they never get money for doing. Able and eloquent men who have been centers in their religious thinking have done the Christian religion much harm. It was a blessing that the early Christian church was not torn by a half-baked Apollos preaching a half gospel. So this harmonious husband and wife team are specially noted for their Jewish family tree, for their hardships as refugees, not for the skill as craftsmen, not even for their heroism. Above all, they were teachers teaching by example, by unity of love, teaching by word and argument. They did not found a religion. They asked for no pay and got none. They taught right where they were—at home. They did not wait for opportunity to teach; they made it. Of such are the great teachers.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO PLANT COVER CROPS—Many Lancaster County soils are low in organic matter (or humus); this is due to rapid tations, high temperatures and humidity and the tilling of the soil. Green manure crops, or cover crops are the best substitute for sods and barnyard manure. Greens, truck patches, and fields should be open over winter; the sowing of some winter cover crop such as domestic rye grass, field brome grass, or any of the winter grains will give wind and water protection as well as help maintain organic matter.

TO WORK LIME AND FERTILIZER INTO THE SOIL—Many new seedings of pasture and winter grain will be seeded in the coming month or so, much of the winter grain will be followed by a sod crop for hay or silage. If lime, phosphorus, and potash is to do much good, it should be worked into the soil for at least 4 to 6 inches before the seeding is made. It takes much longer to do any good when put on top of the ground. Soils going to winter grain this fall should then to a legume next spring or summer should get complete soil test now and the requirements added before the ground is seeded this fall.

TO CLEAN AND SANITIZE RODS FOR BULK MILK TANKS—The measuring rod for bulk tanks should be kept out of the tank when not in use. After making the reading, wash it thoroughly and hang it on the milkhouse wall; before using again, rinse it off and sanitize it before inserting in to the tank of milk. If the rod is not kept clean, it may spread contamination and give inaccurate readings.

TO SPRAY ROSES FOR POWDERY MILDEW — Powdery Mildew is causing severe damage to roses this summer and fall, the affected leaves and buds have a white powdery appearance, are dwarfed and distorted, and develop poorly. The fungicide, Phaltan, is recommended at the rate of four teaspoons per gallon sprayed weekly for the control of both mildew and black spot. Other fungicides such as maneb captan may be used for black spot and add one tablespoonful of wettable sulfur per gallon for the mildew.

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